

of pedagogy and who is widely read in the various ramifications of the subject. He knows well how to weigh the relative importance of the material presented by researchers of the present day and to combine it with the older information in the proper proportion. E. L.

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DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE TRACT AND THEIR TREATMENT. By A. EVERETT AUSTIN, A.M., M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, in Charge of Dietetics and Gastro-intestinal Diseases, Tufts College. Pp. 552; 85 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1916.

THIS volume, the latest arrival in the rapidly growing number of monographs dealing with gastro-intestinal subjects, while not so good as some of its predecessors, nevertheless presents features which speak in its favor.

While by no means an exhaustive treatise of the subject, and not intended as such, it contains a great deal of practical information, derived from a clinical experience covering a quarter of a century, which should prove useful to both students and general practitioners, although it may not appeal so strongly to men who are specializing in this subject and who are familiar with the best books in this and other languages.

To the reviewer, who does not wish to be unduly critical, it would seem that the book is badly balanced in regard to the space allotted to different topics. For instance, one-half of the volume is taken up with a discussion of the anatomy and physiology of the gastro-intestinal tract; the examination of the patient, historical, symptomatic, and physical; the methods of applying laboratory aids in diagnosis; a chapter on dietetics, which is one of the best in the book; and a chapter on treatment in general, which is fairly well presented and forms a good working basis, though unfortunately is far from being up to date. These chapters make up Part I of the volume. Part II is devoted to a discussion of special gastric diseases which, in the opinion of the reviewer, are afforded scantier treatment than they deserve, only 66 pages being given to the organic diseases and 24 pages to the functional disturbances. In regard to the former only five conditions are presented, namely, gastritis, ulcer, ectasia, cancer, and splanchnoptosis, no mention being made of sarcoma, syphilis, tuberculosis, benign tumors of the stomach, benign pyloric stenosis, and congenital defects, topics which while of less importance than those discussed, nevertheless deserve a place in a treatise of this size. Again, in regard to functional disturbances no mention is made of some of our more recently acquired knowledge of vage and sympathicotony. Part III, consisting of 143 pages, is take

up with a discussion of special intestinal diseases, and for the most part is much more creditably handled than is Part II. There is no space allotted to a discussion of diseases of the mouth, the esophagus, the pancreas, and the biliary apparatus in their direct or associated influences on gastro-intestinal digestion.

The author shows commendable familiarity with the foreign literature, especially from German sources, but has paid very little attention to the marked advances in and the many contributions to the subject which have recently been developed by American writers. For a book published as late as the current year it is almost unpardonable that no mention should be made of newer methods of diagnosis by fractional gastric analyses, gastric and duodenal sediment studies, and the development of some of the more recent biological and physiological chemical tests, useful in differential diagnosis. The book is presented in a literary style which is somewhat too refreshingly breezy in its use of slang expressions that seem out of place in such an otherwise dignified treatise, and the reviewer occasionally found himself lost in a maze of badly constructed sentences, for instance the following: "This peristaltic action of the antrum plays a very important part in the act of vomiting. At first the muscular tone of the fundus relaxes, leaving its walls flabby; the cardia opens and the waves of the antrum continue, but against a closed pylorus and a relaxed fundus, in which way the contents of the stomach, perhaps aided by the pressure of the diaphragm and the abdominal walls, with mouth open, posterior nares and glottis closed, as in swallowing, are forced out of the mouth."

From the publisher's stand-point the book is attractively bound and printed, and the somewhat mediocre illustrations have been capably reproduced.

B. B. V. L.

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**SKIN CANCER.** By HENRY H. HAZEN, A.B., M.D., Professor of Dermatology in the Medical Department of Georgetown University; Professor of Dermatology in the Medical Department of Howard University; Some Time Assistant in Dermatology in the Johns Hopkins University; Member of the American Dermatology Association. Pp. 251; 98 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1916.

THE attractive little book of Hazen's with the title of *Skin Cancer* has been read from cover to cover with great pleasure and interest by the reviewer. The subject under consideration has been divided into nineteen chapters: general considerations; precancerous dermatoses; epithelial warts; basal-celled carcinomata; cubo-celled carcinomata; spino-celled carcinomata; benign and